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## Remember, It's a Two-Way Street

Belatedly but wisely, President Eisenhower has invited Democratic congressional leaders to examine his State of the Union message on January 5, two days before it is to be read.

This gesture is said to be without precedent. Probably it is. But an argument can be made that, as a bi-partisan gesture, it has little real meaning. With only two days remaining, the President is unlikely to alter his message if it does not suit the Democratic opposition. Thus prior consultation is not much more than a courtesy proffered under some public pressure.

In the first session of the 83rd Congress the Democratic role began as one of "loyal opposition." As the session progressed, however, by degrees the role became one of "loyal support" on the essentials of foreign policy and on some key domestic matters. On roll call after roll call, the Administration would have gone down in defeat save for the insistent backing of the minority party.

This role has not been too easy. With the Democrats actually holding a margin of one seat in the Senate yet refusing to attempt to "organize" that body, some Republicans are trying to unseat Sen. Dennis Chavez of New Mexico on rather thin charges of election fraud. Governor Dewey has lately identified the Democrats with Korean War guilt. With the single and dismal exception of the Martin Durkin appointment as Secretary of

Labor, the Administration has made no effort to inject "bi-partisanship" into the executive ranks, high or low.

Even such a rugged and often wrong-headed partisan as Harry Truman sprinkled his Administration with Republicans and non-party appointees. William McChesney Martin, Jr., served as chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Allen W. Dulles was deputy head of the Central Intelligence Agency. Former Republican Sen. Hiram W. Bingham was chairman of the Loyalty Review Board. John Foster Dulles served in the State Department as Ambassador-at-Large. Robert P. Patterson was Secretary of War and Robert A. Lovett was Secretary of Defense. The London embassy post was filled by Lewis W. Douglas and Walter Gifford. Warren Austin was our ambassador to the United Nations. Paul G. Hoffman was the first Economic Cooperation Administrator. So it went: a score more could be named.

Politics should, and must, stop at the water's edge. But bi-partisanship, as the late Senator Vandenberg often made clear on his own terms, is a two-way street. While Republican job-hunger is human and excusable after 20 years, flouting the Democrats, as Dewey on the one hand and paying them perfunctory court on the other is not going to put much momentum behind the Eisenhower program.